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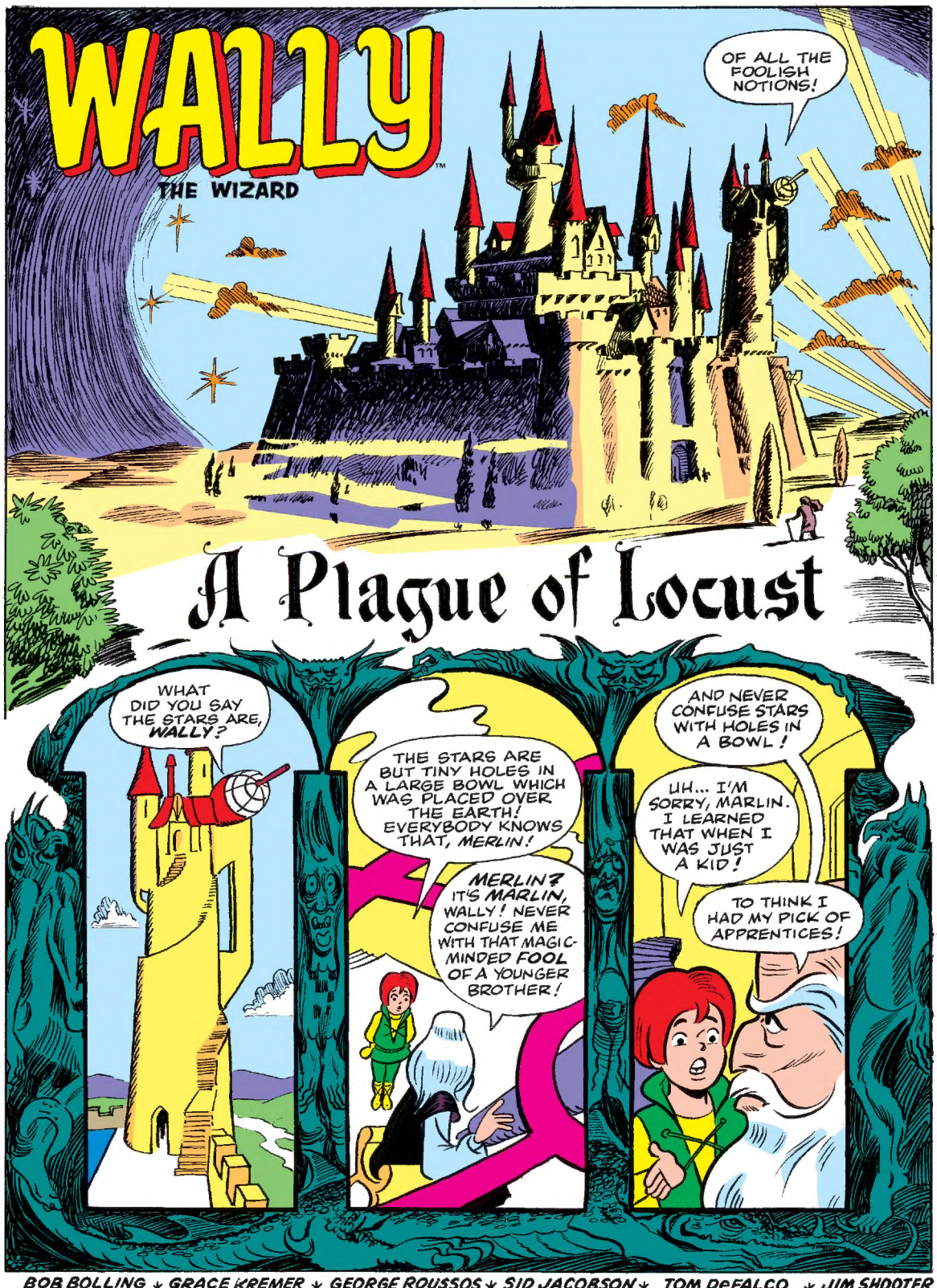
WALLY

THE WIZARD™



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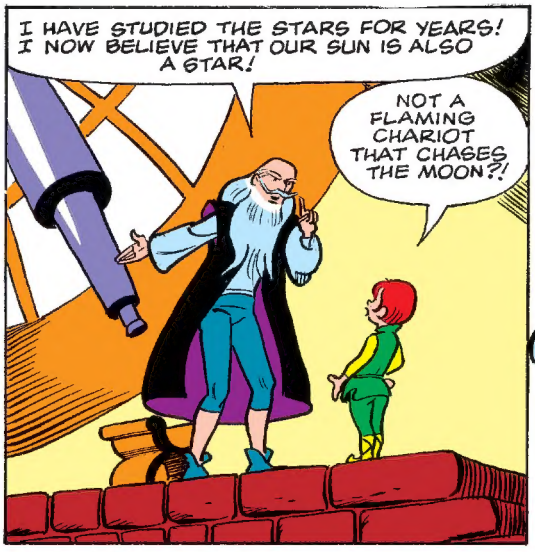
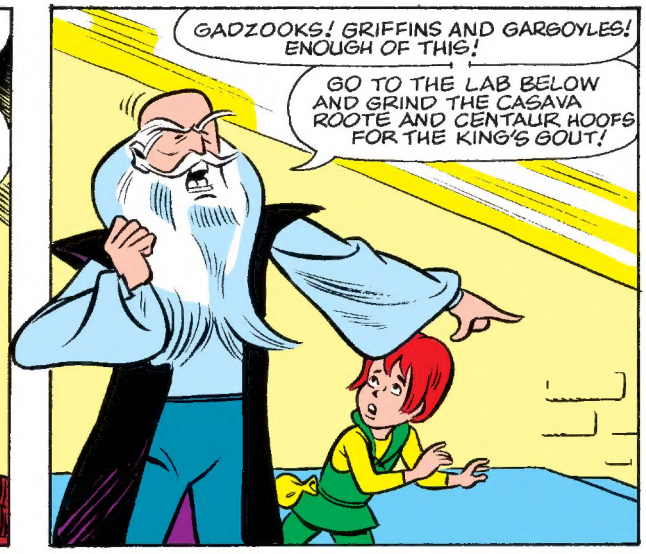
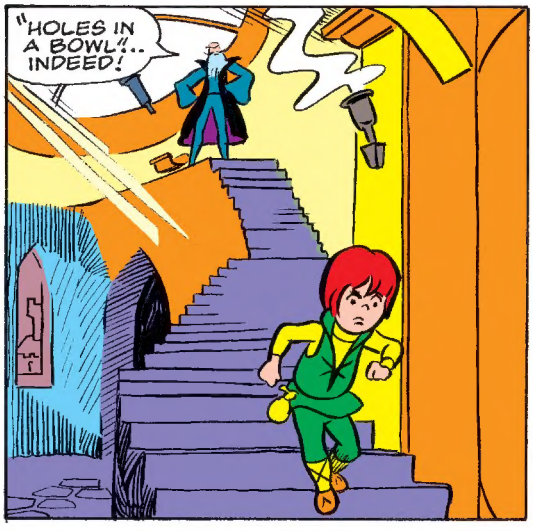
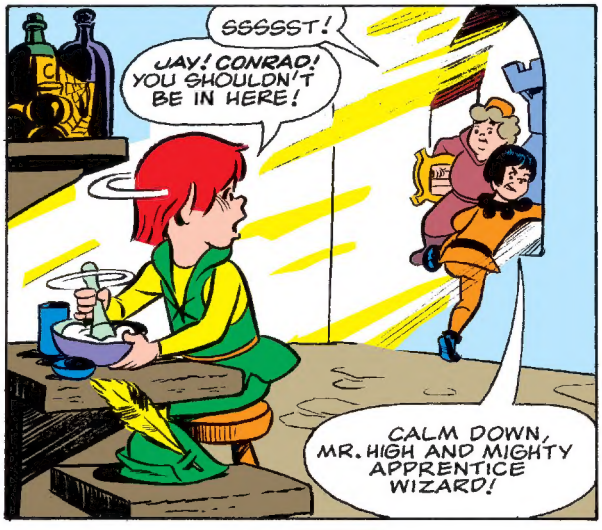
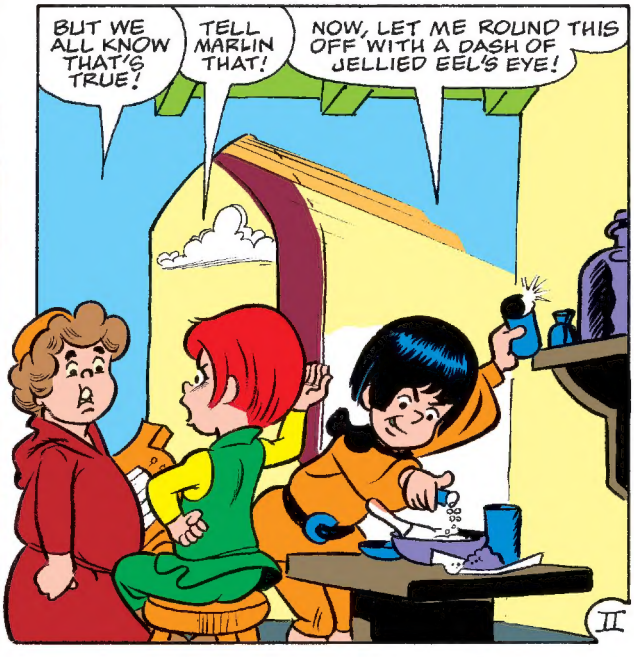

I HAVE STUDIED THE STARS FOR YEARS! I NOW BELIEVE THAT OUR SUN IS ALSO A STAR!
NOT A FLAMING CHARIOT THAT CHASES THE MOON?!

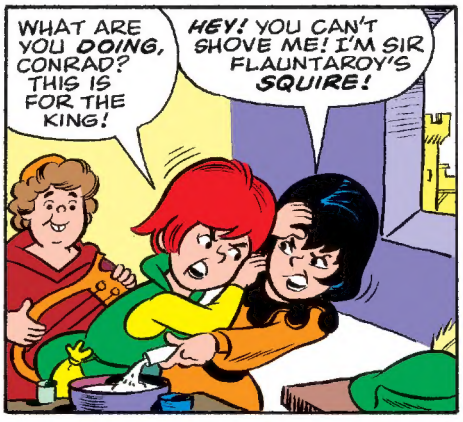

GADZOOKS! GRIFFINS AND GARGOYLES! ENOUGH OF THIS!
GO TO THE LAB BELOW AND GRIND THE CASAVA ROOTE AND CENTAUR HOOFS FOR THE KING'S GOUT!

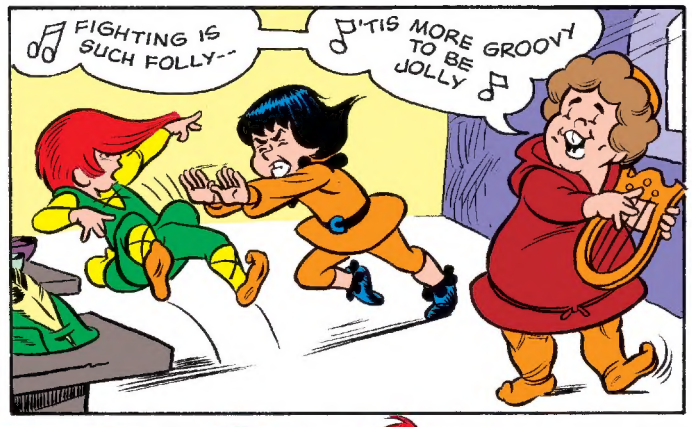

"HOLES IN A BOWL"... INDEED!


SSSSST!
JAY! CONRAD! YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN HERE!
CALM DOWN, MR. HIGH AND MIGHTY APPRENTICE WIZARD!

IS MARLIN A REAL WIZARD OR JUST ONE OF THESE NEW-FANGLED SCIENTISTS?
I WONDER SOMETIMES, JAY! HE'S NOT AT ALL LIKE HIS FAMOUS BROTHER MERLIN! HE SCOLDED ME FOR SAYING STARS ARE TINY HOLES IN A BOWL THAT COVERS THE EARTH!

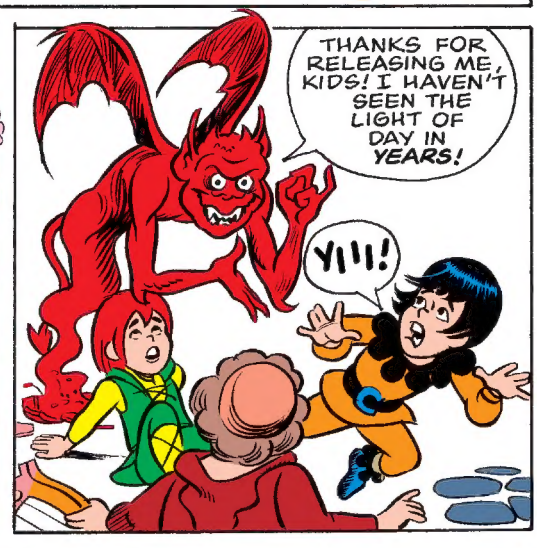

BUT WE ALL KNOW THAT'S TRUE!
TELL MARLIN THAT!
NOW, LET ME ROUND THIS OFF WITH A DASH OF JELLIED EEL'S EYE!

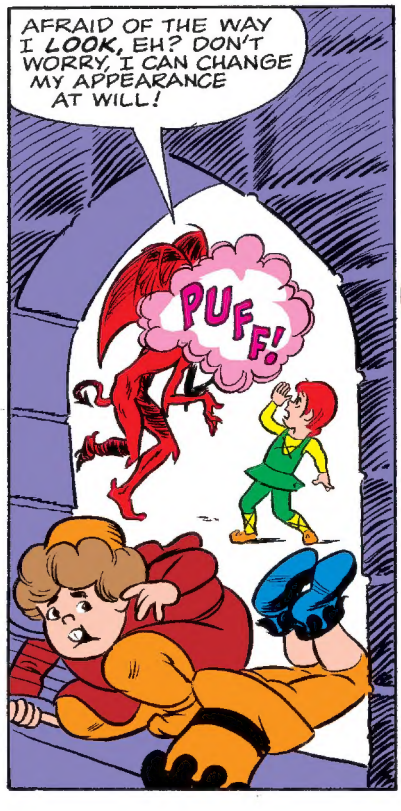

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CONRAD? THIS IS FOR THE KING!
HEY! YOU CAN'T SHOVE ME! I'M SIR FLAUNTAROY'S SQUIRE!

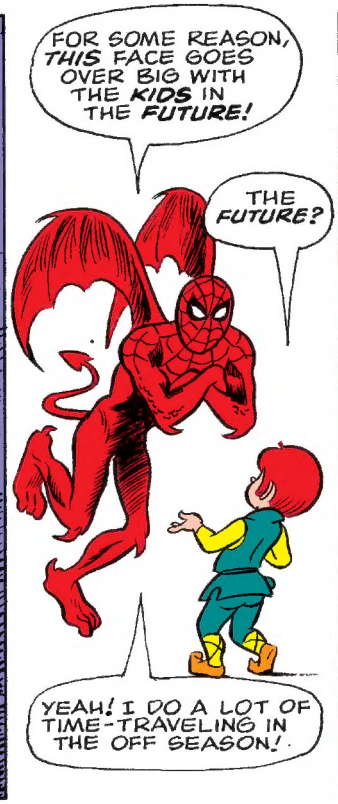

FIGHTING IS SUCH FOLLY--
'TIS MORE GROOVY TO BE JOLLY

YOU SPILLED IT, WALLY! YOU SPILLED IT!
POP!

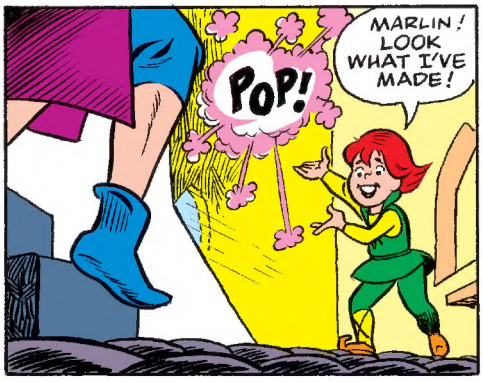
PUFF!

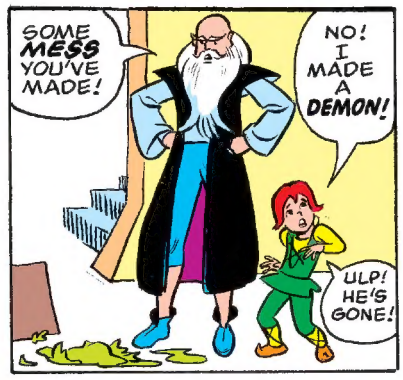

THANKS FOR RELEASING ME, KIDS! I HAVEN'T SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY IN YEARS!
YIII!


AFRAID OF THE WAY I LOOK, EH? DON'T WORRY, I CAN CHANGE MY APPEARANCE AT WILL!
PUFF!

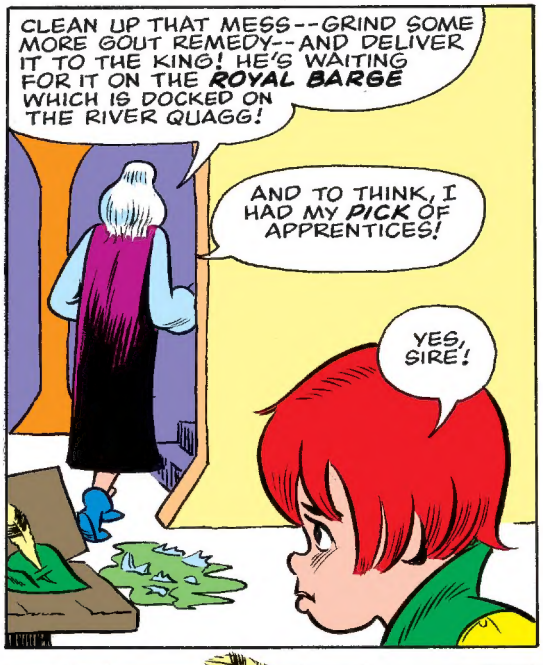

FOR SOME REASON, THIS FACE GOES OVER BIG WITH THE KIDS IN THE FUTURE!
THE FUTURE?
YEAH! I DO A LOT OF TIME-TRAVELING IN THE OFF SEASON!

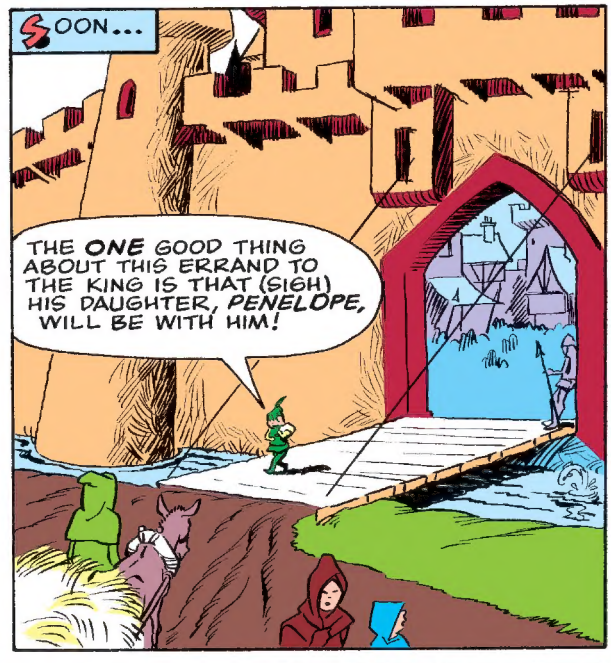
REMEMBER, YOU GOT A FRIEND FOR LIFE IN OL' GORG HERE!
WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE DOWN THERE?
PUFF!
(GASP!) MARLIN'S COMING!

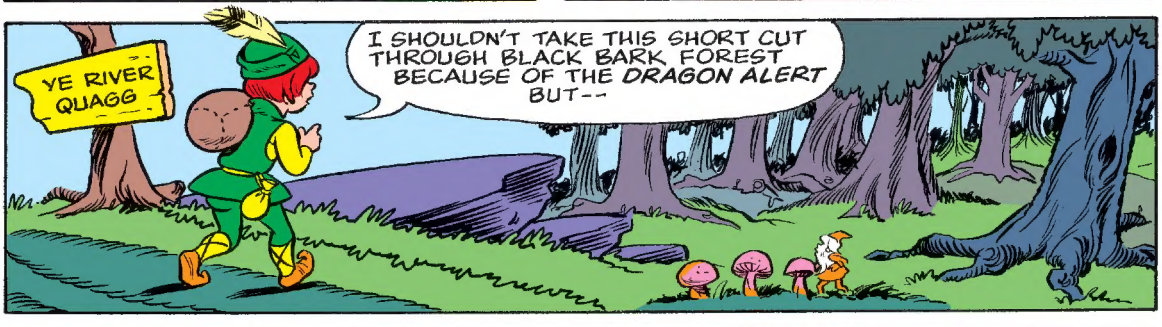

POP!
MARLIN! LOOK WHAT I'VE MADE!

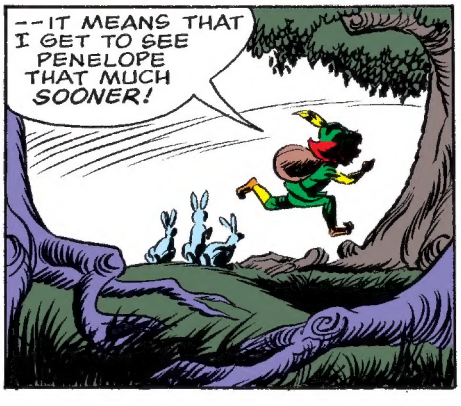

SOME MESS YOU'VE MADE!
NO! I MADE A DEMON!
ULP! HE'S GONE!

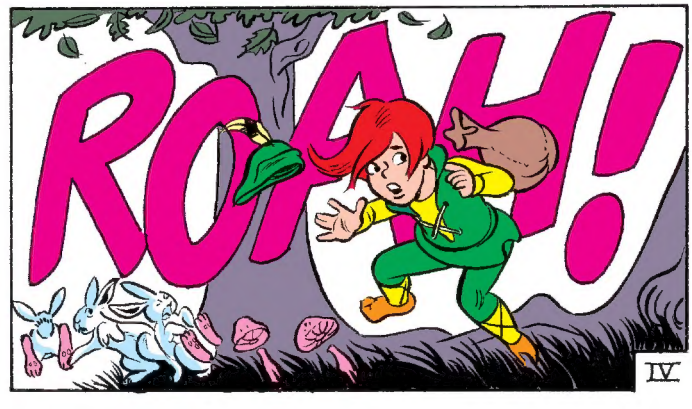
A DEMON!? THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS!

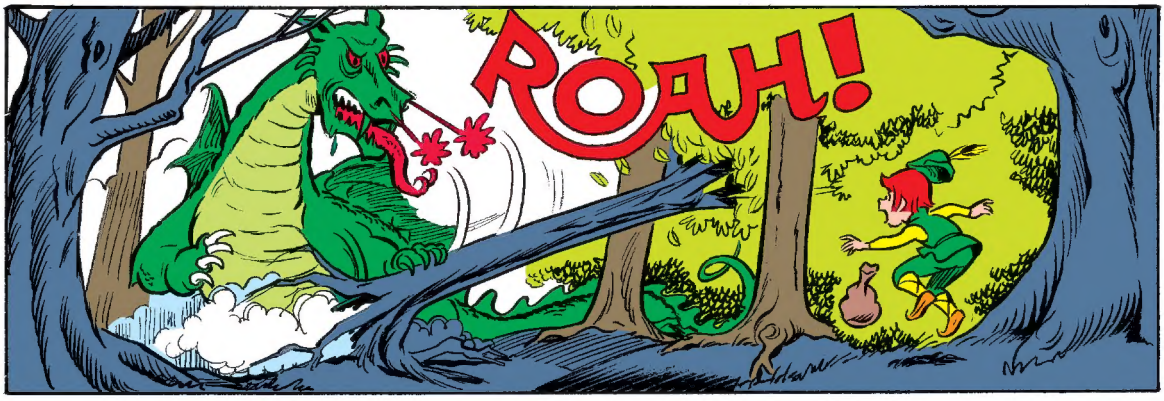

CLEAN UP THAT MESS--GRIND SOME MORE GOUT REMEDY--AND DELIVER IT TO THE KING! HE'S WAITING FOR IT ON THE ROYAL BARGE WHICH IS DOCKED ON THE RIVER QUAGG!
AND TO THINK, I HAD MY PICK OF APPRENTICES!
YES, SIRE!

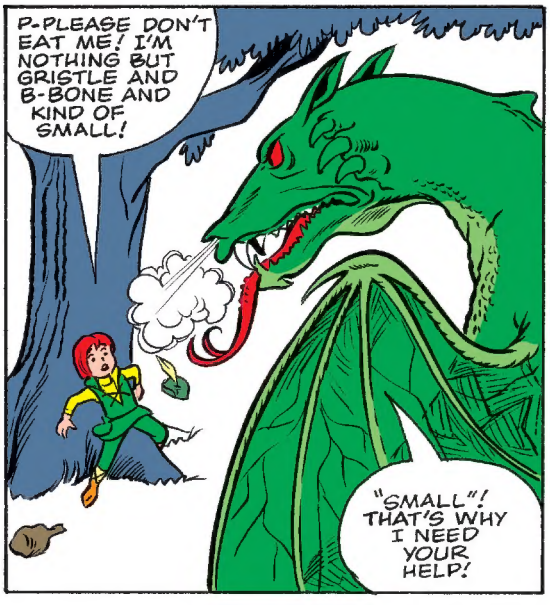

SOON...
THE ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS ERRAND TO THE KING IS THAT (SIGH) HIS DAUGHTER, PENELOPE, WILL BE WITH HIM!


YE RIVER QUAGG
I SHOULDN'T TAKE THIS SHORT CUT THROUGH BLACK BARK FOREST BECAUSE OF THE DRAGON ALERT BUT--


--IT MEANS THAT I GET TO SEE PENELOPE THAT MUCH SOONER!


ROAH!


ROAH!

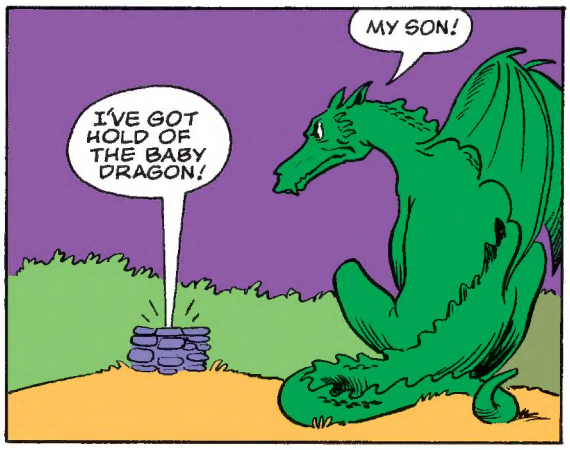

P-PLEASE DON'T EAT ME! I'M NOTHING BUT GRISTLE AND B-BONE AND KIND OF SMALL!
"SMALL"! THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP!

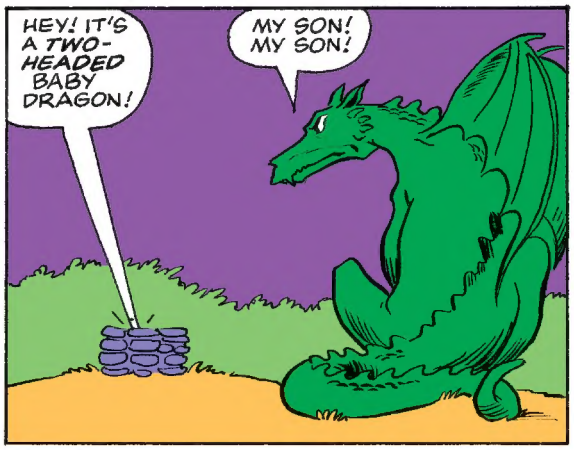
M-MY "HELP"!?
YES! IT'S MY SON!

...HE'S FALLEN INTO THAT *WELL!*
'ALP!*
* YORKSHIRE DIALECT

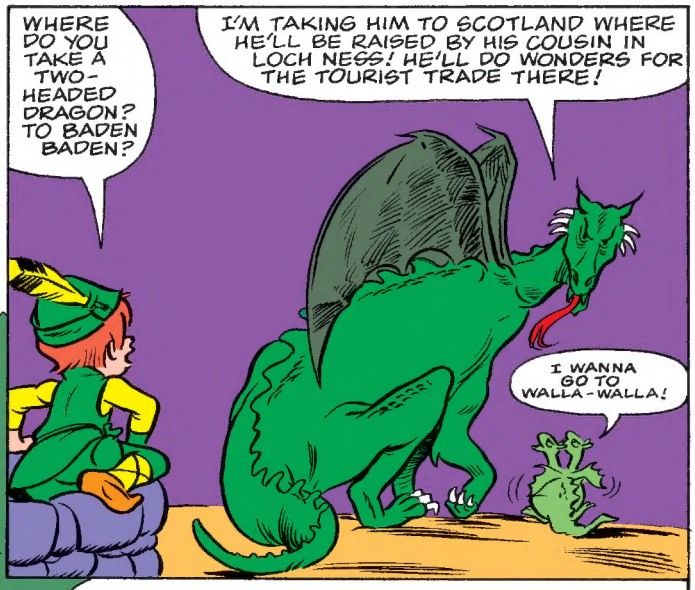
YECH! HE'S BEEN EATING SCALLIONS!
NEVER MIND THAT...SAVE HIM...

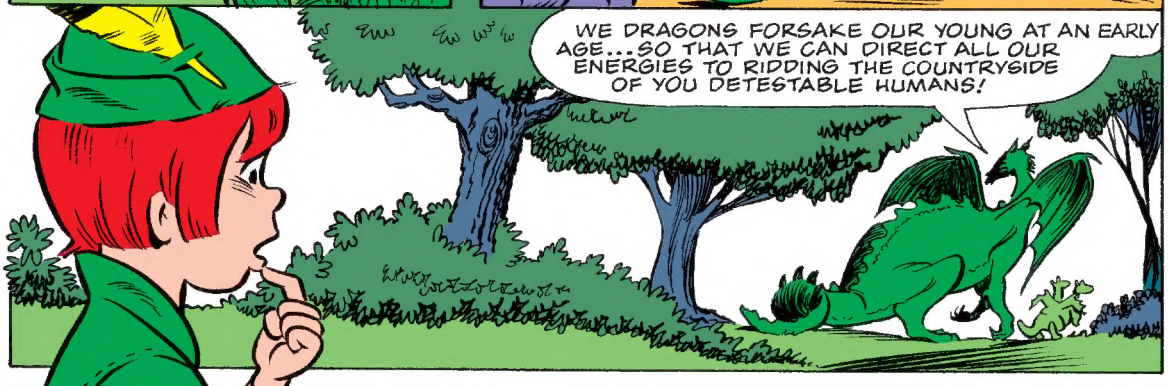
...OR I SHALL EAT YOU!


I'VE GOT HOLD OF THE BABY DRAGON!
MY SON!

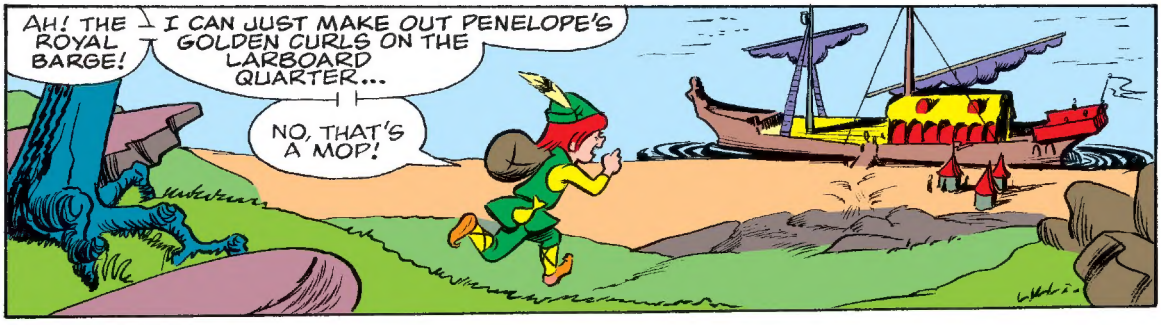

HEY! IT'S A TWO-HEADED BABY DRAGON!
MY SON! MY SON!

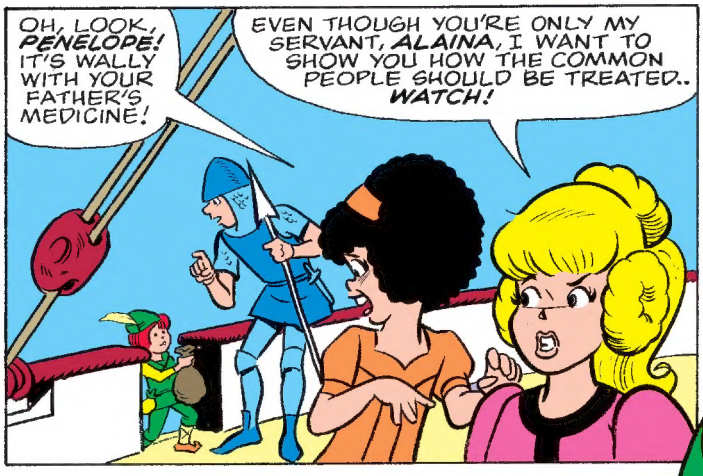
(GRUNT!) HERE HE IS!
WE CAN NOW RESUME OUR TRIP!

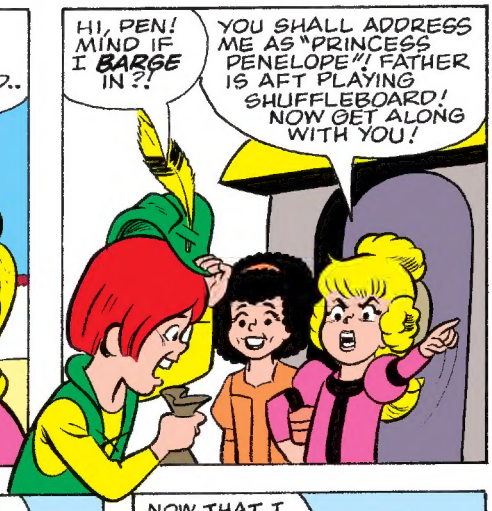

WHERE DO YOU TAKE A TWO-HEADED DRAGON? TO BADEN BADEN?
I'M TAKING HIM TO SCOTLAND WHERE HE'LL BE RAISED BY HIS COUSIN IN LOCH NESS! HE'LL DO WONDERS FOR THE TOURIST TRADE THERE!
I WANNA GO TO WALLA-WALLA!


WE DRAGONS FORSAKE OUR YOUNG AT AN EARLY AGE...SO THAT WE CAN DIRECT ALL OUR ENERGIES TO RIDDING THE COUNTRYSIDE OF YOU DETESTABLE HUMANS!

I'M REALLY LATE NOW! BUT I WOULDN'T TAKE ANOTHER SHORT-CUT...
...NOT EVEN IF I COULD WEAR SIR FLAUNTAROY'S CAPE OF INVINCIBILITY!


AH! THE ROYAL BARGE!
I CAN JUST MAKE OUT PENELOPE'S GOLDEN CURLS ON THE LARBOARD QUARTER...
NO, THAT'S A MOP!


OH, LOOK, PENELOPE! IT'S WALLY WITH YOUR FATHER'S MEDICINE!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ONLY MY SERVANT, ALAINA, I WANT TO SHOW YOU HOW THE COMMON PEOPLE SHOULD BE TREATED.. WATCH!

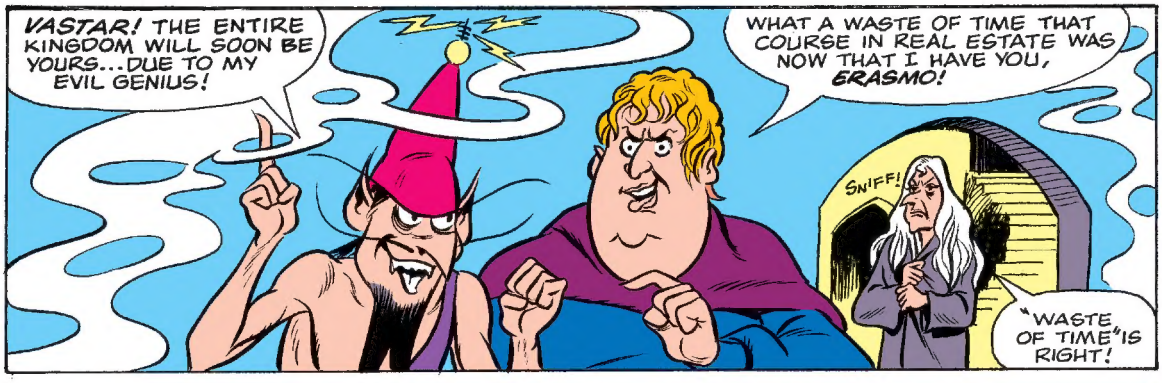

HI, PEN! MIND IF I BARGE IN?!
YOU SHALL ADDRESS ME AS "PRINCESS PENELOPE"! FATHER IS AFT PLAYING SHUFFLEBOARD! NOW GET ALONG WITH YOU!

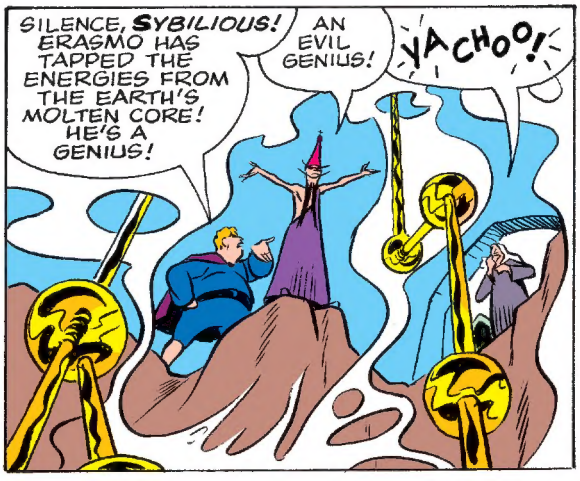
NICE SEEIN' YOU AGAIN, PEN!
HMMPH!

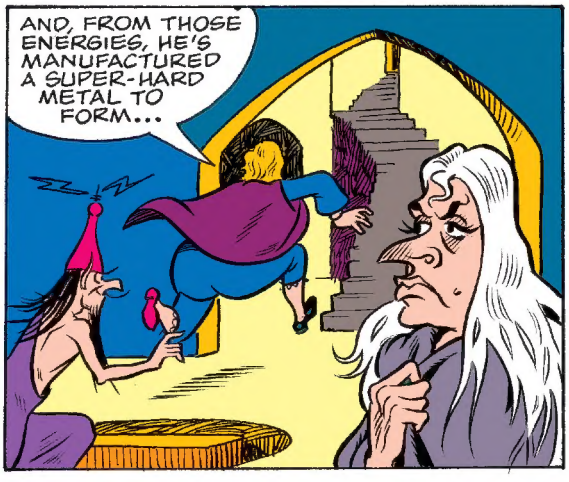
AH! MY GOUT REMEDY! GUARD, TAKE THE LAD TO THE GALLEY AND GIVE HIM A SLICE OF MUTTON A LA MODE!
YES, KING KODGER!

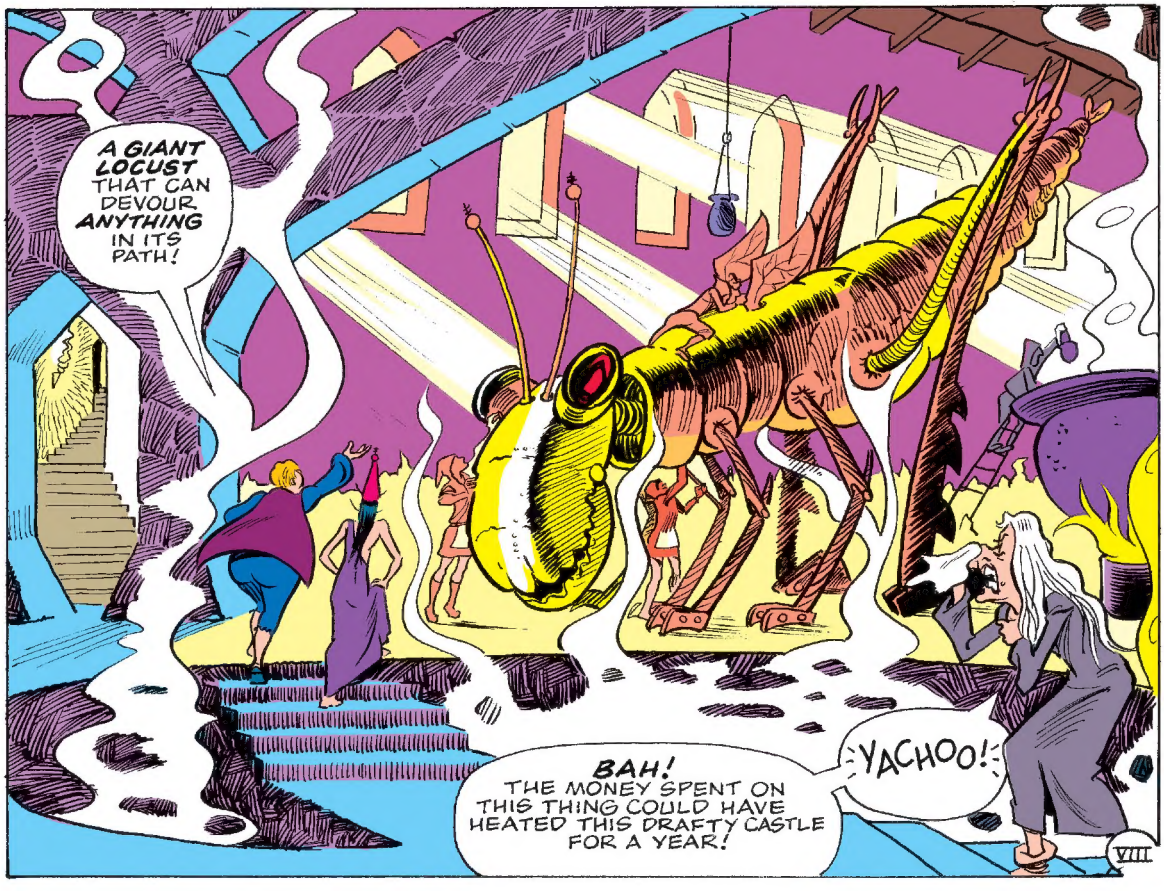
NOW THAT I HAVE MY MEDICINE... ALL IS WELL WITH THE KINGDOM!

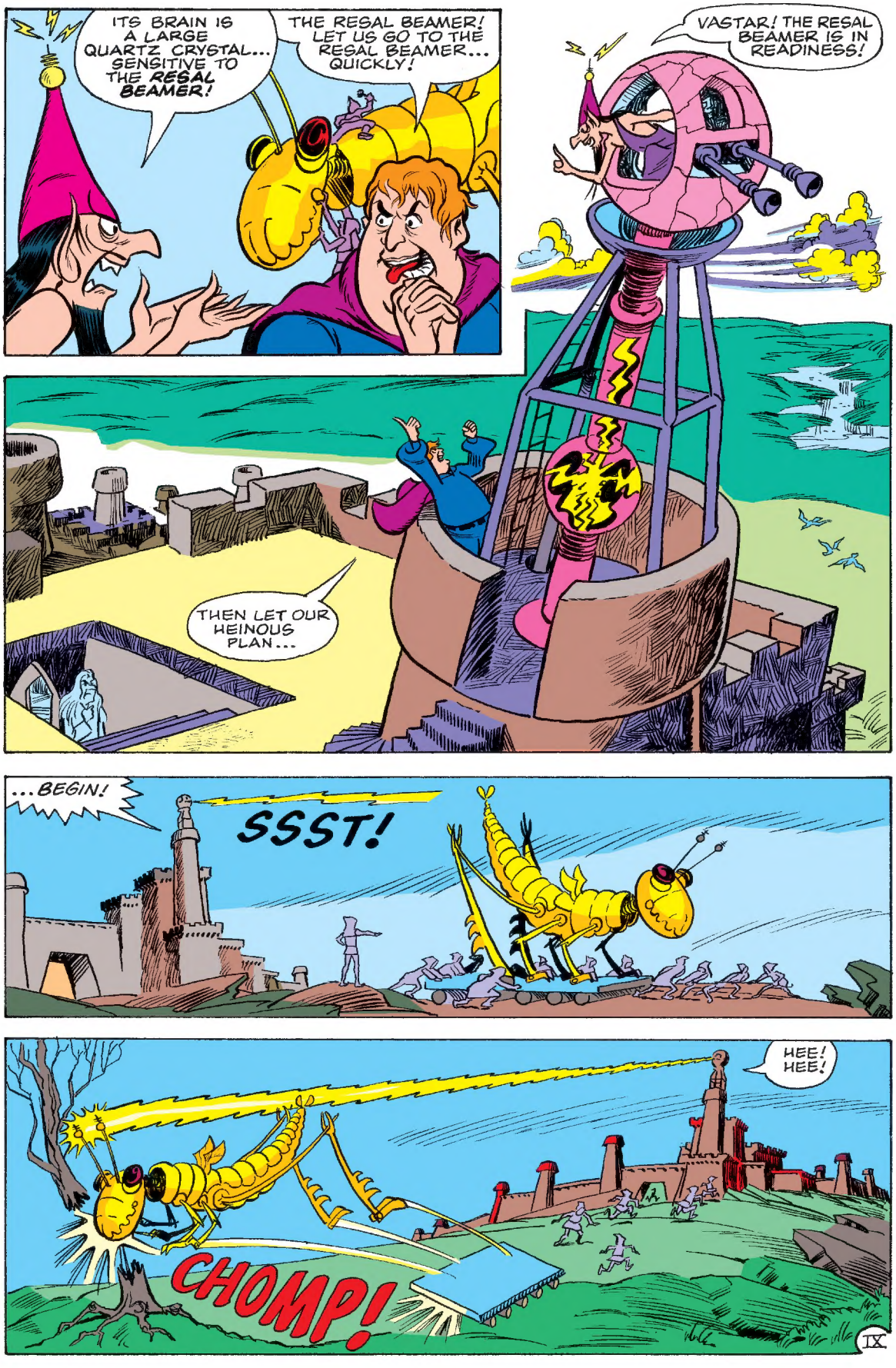
BUT IS IT? HOW CAN IT BE?... FOR FAR OUT ON THE MOORS RISES A ROCKY PROMONTORY RESEMBLING A HUGE BOIL AND RESTING UPON IT LIKE A BLOATED TARANTULA...
BLUDMIRE CASTLE!..
...HOME OF VASTAR THE VILE, HIS HALF-SISTER, SYBILIOUS THE BILIOUS, AND THE WICKED WIZARD, ERASMO!


VASTAR! THE ENTIRE KINGDOM WILL SOON BE YOURS...DUE TO MY EVIL GENIUS!
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME THAT COURSE IN REAL ESTATE WAS NOW THAT I HAVE YOU, ERASMO!
SNIFF!
"WASTE OF TIME" IS RIGHT!


SILENCE, SYBILIOUS! ERASMO HAS TAPPED THE ENERGIES FROM THE EARTH'S MOLTEN CORE! HE'S A GENIUS!
AN EVIL GENIUS!
YACHOO!


AND, FROM THOSE ENERGIES, HE'S MANUFACTURED A SUPER-HARD METAL TO FORM...


A GIANT LOCUST THAT CAN DEVOUR ANYTHING IN ITS PATH!
BAH! THE MONEY SPENT ON THIS THING COULD HAVE HEATED THIS DRAFTY CASTLE FOR A YEAR!
YACHOO!


ITS BRAIN IS A LARGE QUARTZ CRYSTAL... SENSITIVE TO THE RESAL BEAMER!
THE RESAL BEAMER! LET US GO TO THE RESAL BEAMER... QUICKLY!
VASTAR! THE RESAL BEAMER IS IN READINESS!
THEN LET OUR HEINOUS PLAN...
...BEGIN!
SSST!
HEE! HEE!
CHOMP!
IX

THE HORRIFYING WORD SPREADS QUICKLY AS THE MONSTER CONSUMES *EVERYTHING* IN ITS PATH... FARMS, GRAIN BINS, TAVERNS, INNS, AND OUTHOUSES...

THE ROYAL FAMILY, WALLY AND SERVANTS IN TOW, HURRIEDLY LEAVE THE ROYAL BARGE AND FLEE TO THE SAFETY OF THE ROYAL CASTLE WALLS!

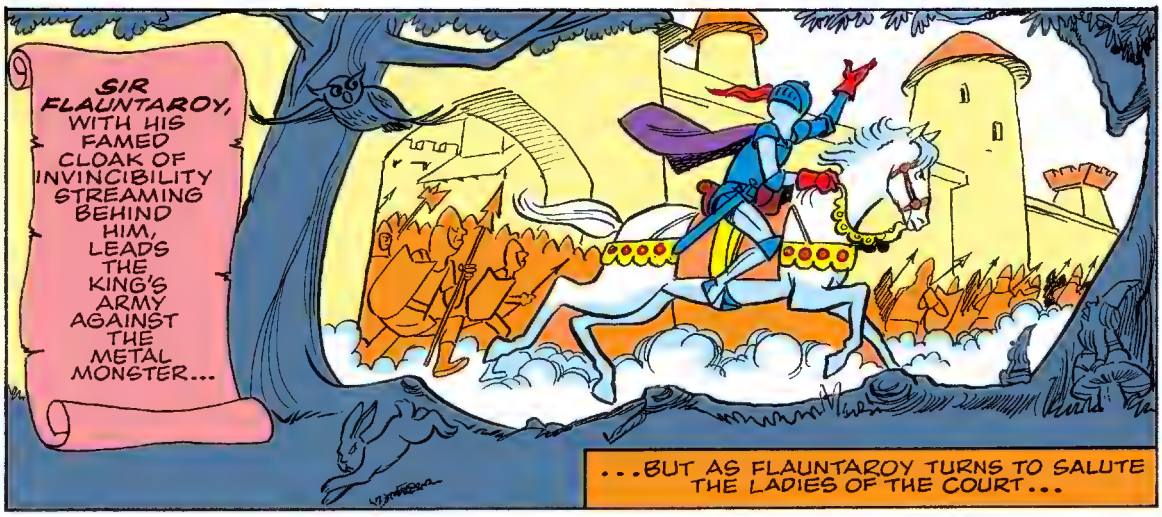
LATER, INSIDE THE HIGHEST WATCHTOWER...

VASTAR AND ***ERASIC*** ARE BEHIND THIS...I'M SURE OF IT!

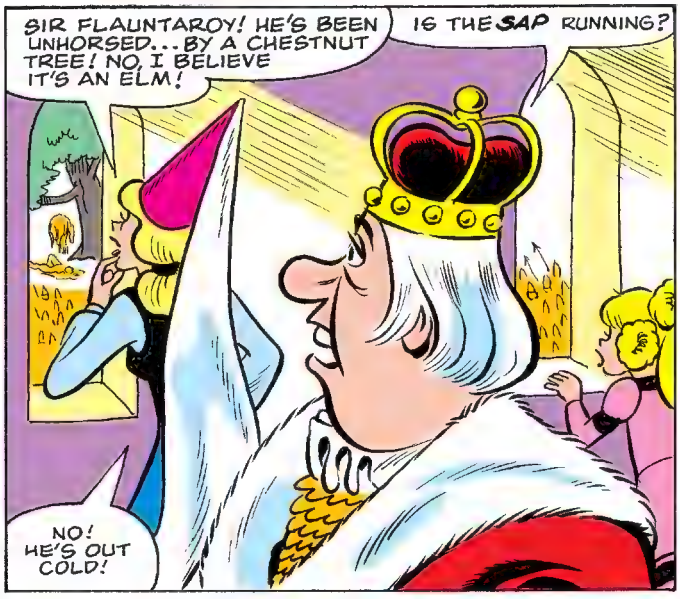
WHY DO I HEAR HOOFBEATS AND THE CLANK OF MAIL?

THAT'S MY ARMY GIRDING ITS LOINS!

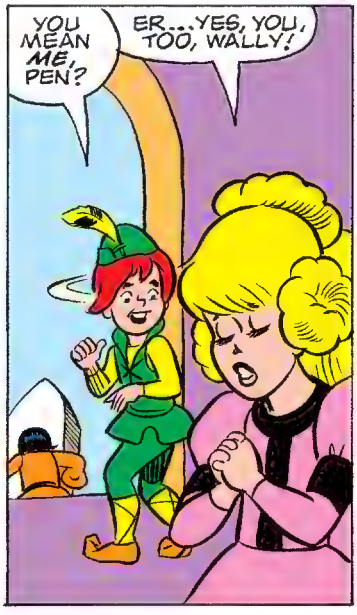
SHOULDN'T THEY BE GETTING READY FOR ***BATTLE?***


SIR FLAUNTAROY, WITH HIS FAMED CLOAK OF INVINCIBILITY STREAMING BEHIND HIM, LEADS THE KING'S ARMY AGAINST THE METAL MONSTER...
...BUT AS FLAUNTAROY TURNS TO SALUTE THE LADIES OF THE COURT...

SMAK!


SIR FLAUNTAROY! HE'S BEEN UNHORSED...BY A CHESTNUT TREE! NO, I BELIEVE IT'S AN ELM!
IS THE SAP RUNNING?
NO! HE'S OUT COLD!

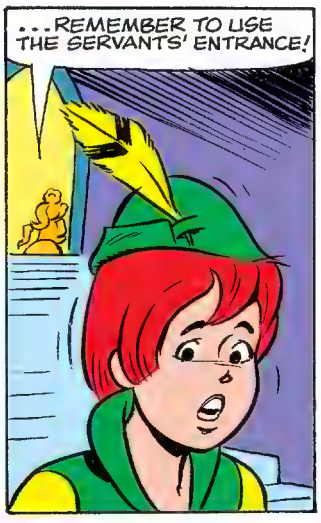
I'M HIS SQUIRE! I MUST GO TO HIM!
I'LL GO WITH YOU, CONRAD!
OH, DO BE CAREFUL!

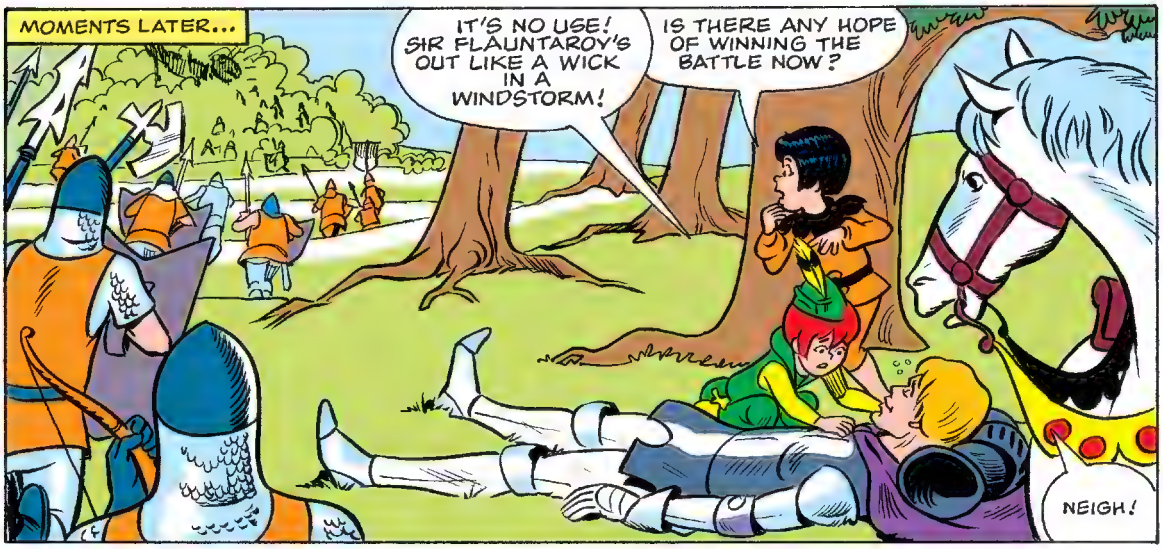

YOU MEAN ME, PEN?
ER...YES, YOU, TOO, WALLY!

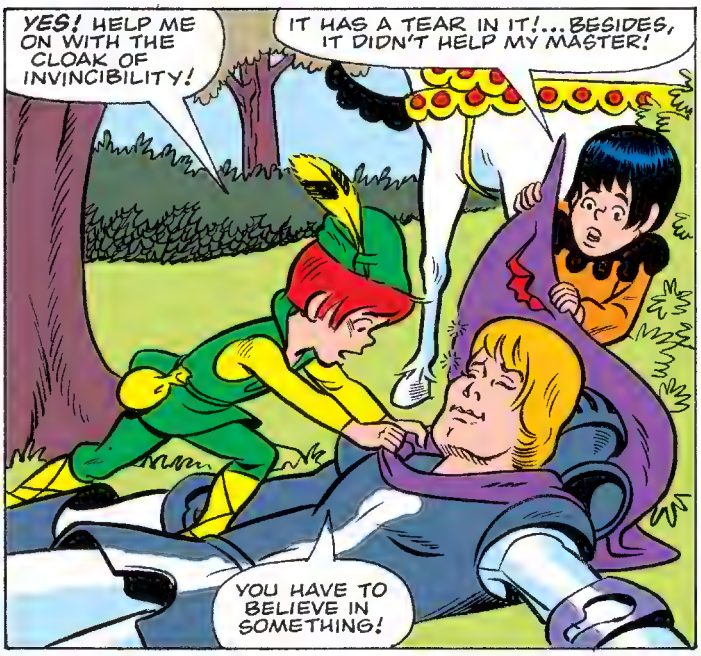
IN CASE I DON'T COME BACK, I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS!
WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A RING! I MADE IT OUT OF SILVER SHAVINGS AND BRAIDED LEPRECHAUN HAIR!...
I MUST NOW GO... OUT ON TO THE FIELD OF BATTLE!

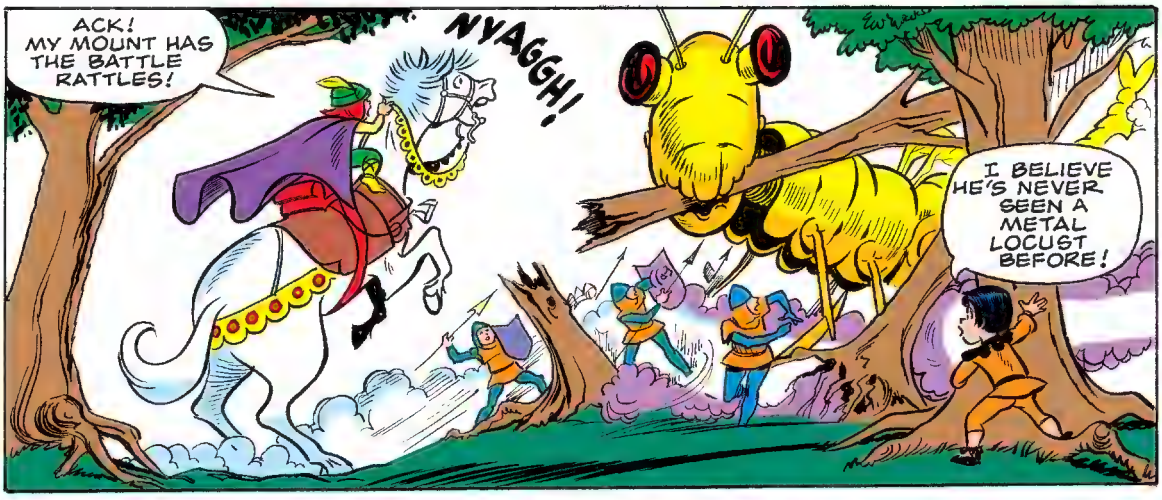
OH, WALLY, IF YOU DO COME BACK...
YES, PEN?

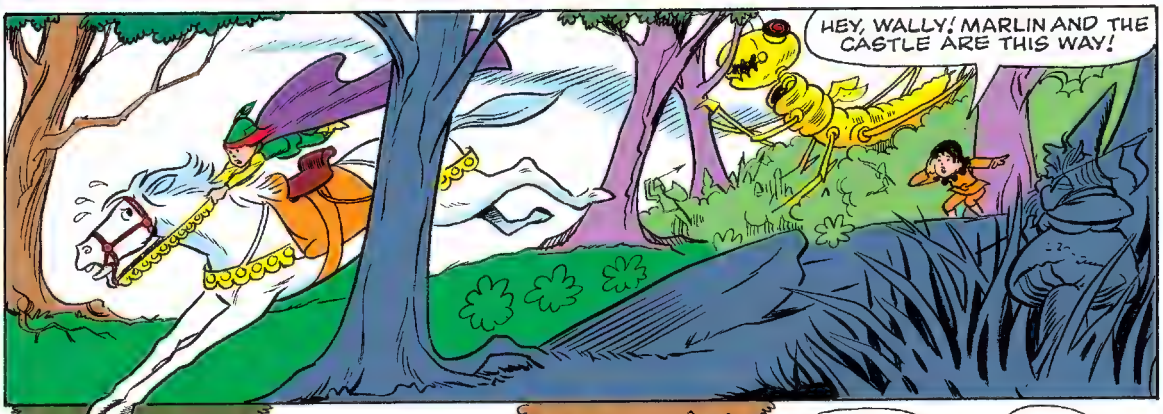

...REMEMBER TO USE THE SERVANTS' ENTRANCE!

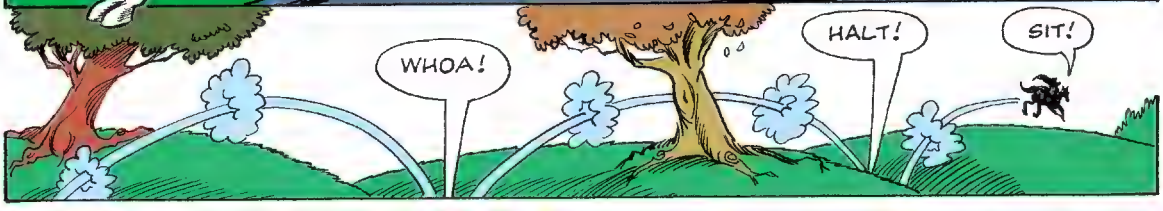

MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S NO USE! SIR FLAUNTAROY'S OUT LIKE A WICK IN A WINDSTORM!
IS THERE ANY HOPE OF WINNING THE BATTLE NOW?
NEIGH!

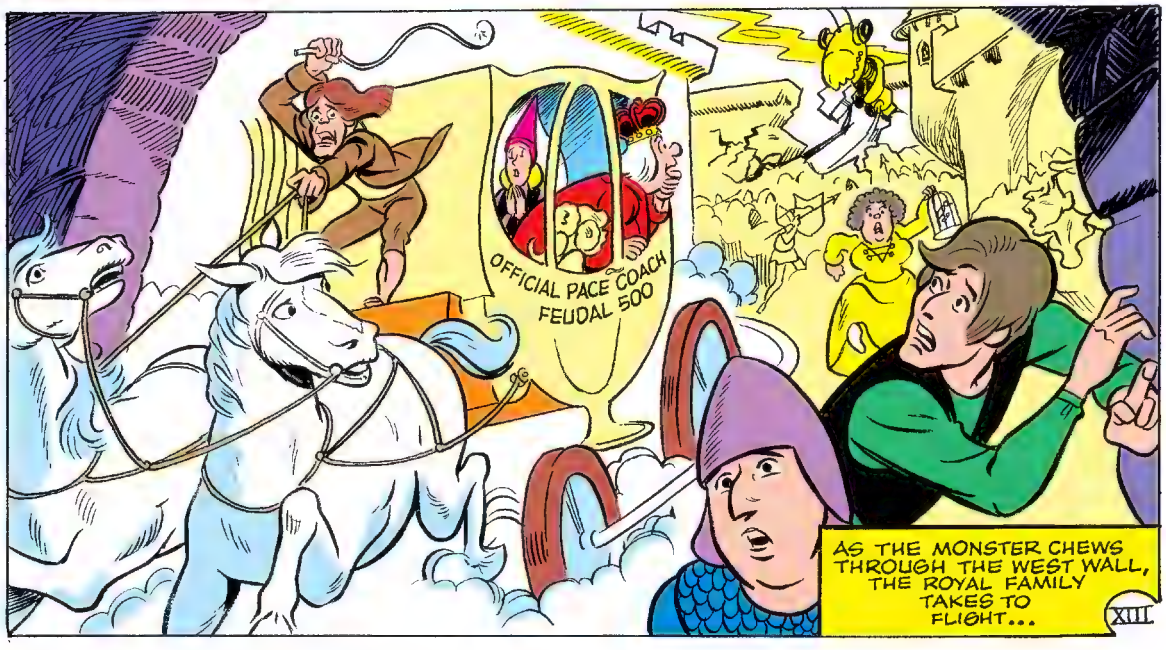

YES! HELP ME ON WITH THE CLOAK OF INVINCIBILITY!
IT HAS A TEAR IN IT!... BESIDES, IT DIDN'T HELP MY MASTER!
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING!

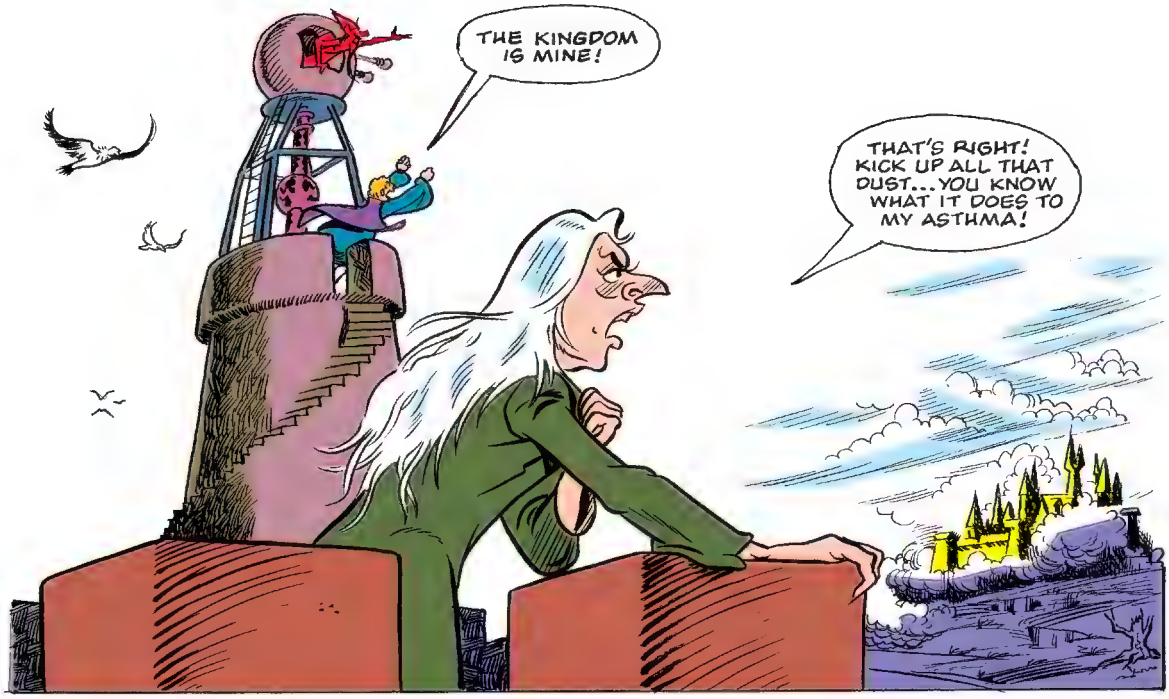
I'M GOING TO RIDE TO MARLIN! ONLY HIS WIZARDRY WAYS CAN SAVE US NOW!
YOU'D BETTER HURRY! THE BEHEMOTH'S ALMOST UPON US!

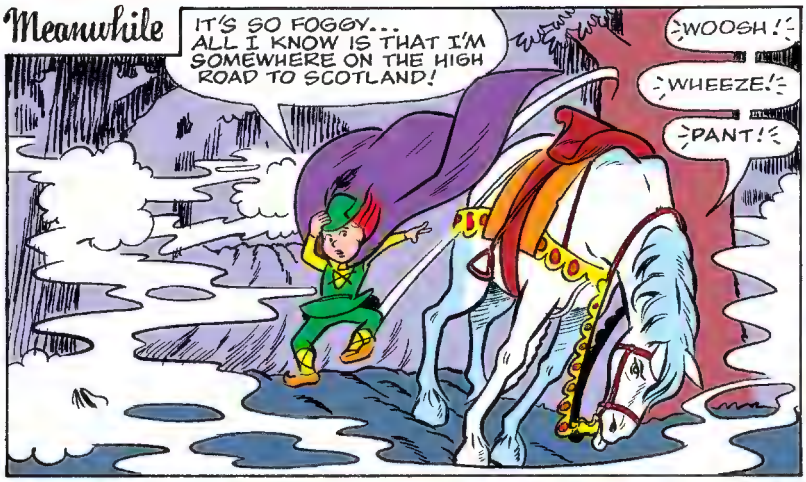

ACK! MY MOUNT HAS THE BATTLE RATTLES!
NYAGGH!
I BELIEVE HE'S NEVER SEEN A METAL LOCUST BEFORE!

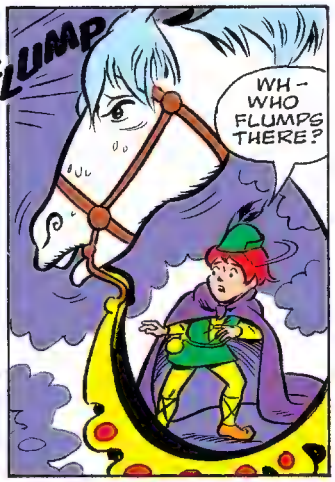

HEY, WALLY! MARLIN AND THE CASTLE ARE THIS WAY!

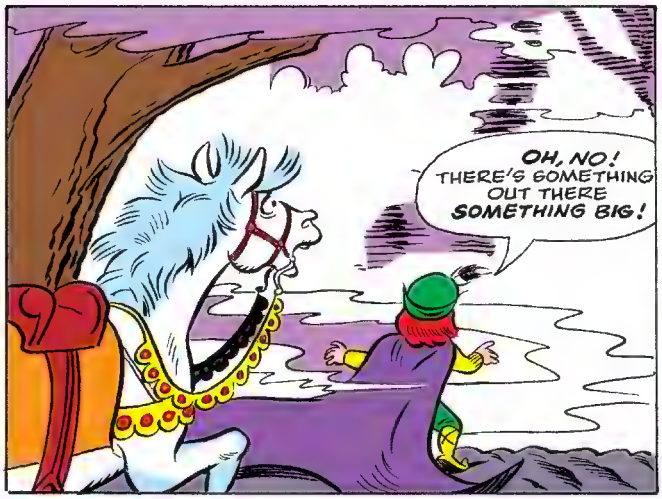

WHOA!
HALT!
SIT!


OFFICIAL PACE COACH
FEUDAL 500
AS THE MONSTER CHEWS THROUGH THE WEST WALL, THE ROYAL FAMILY TAKES TO FLIGHT...

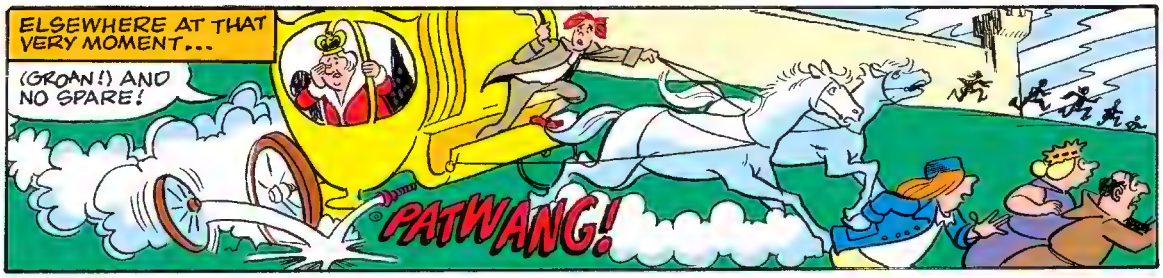

THE KINGDOM IS MINE!
THAT'S RIGHT! KICK UP ALL THAT DUST...YOU KNOW WHAT IT DOES TO MY ASTHMA!

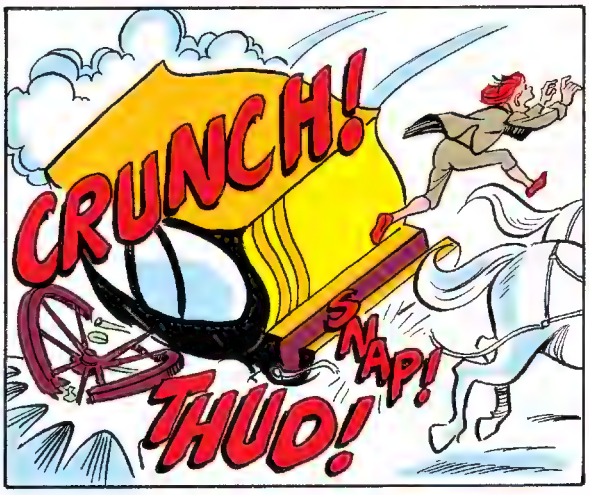

Meanwhile
IT'S SO FOGGY... ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'M SOMEWHERE ON THE HIGH ROAD TO SCOTLAND!
WOOSH!
WHEEZE!
PANT!


FLUMP
WH-WHO FLUMPS THERE?

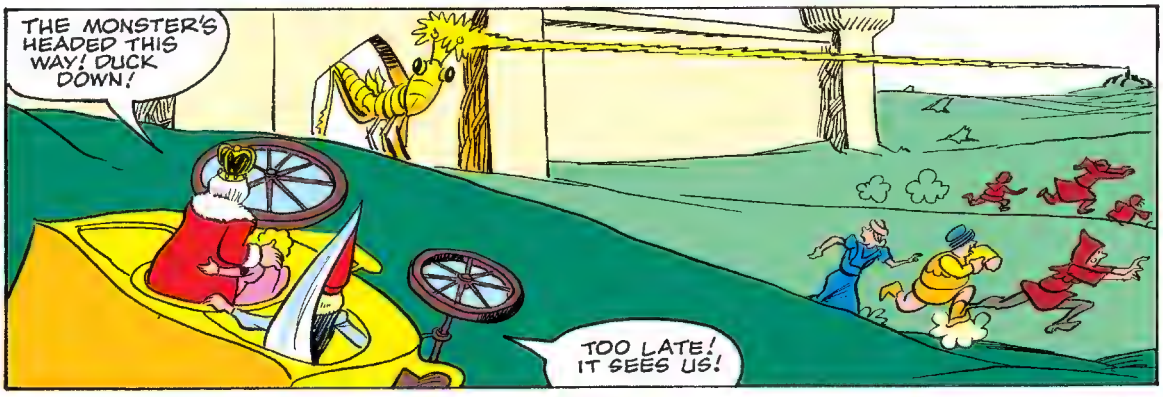

OH, NO! THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE SOMETHING BIG!

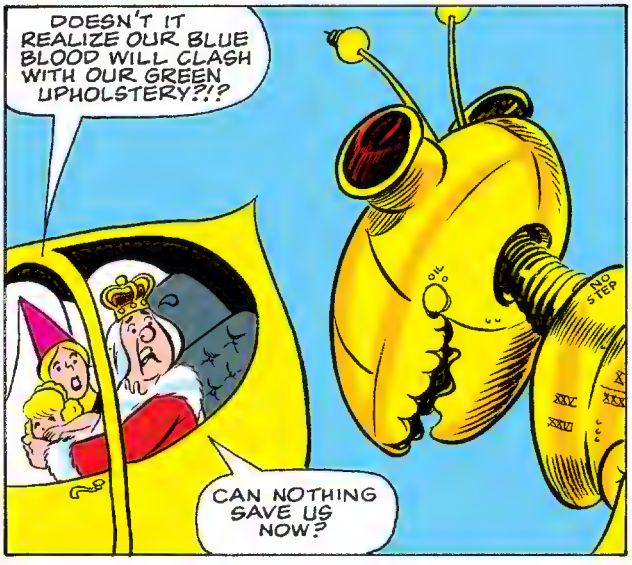
IS IT ANOTHER LOCUST?!


ELSEWHERE AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
(GROAN!) AND NO SPARE!
PATWANG!


CRUNCH!
SNAP!
THUD!

WHY ISN'T ANYONE HELPING US?
IT'S A ROYAL DESERT!


THE MONSTER'S HEADED THIS WAY! DUCK DOWN!
TOO LATE! IT SEES US!


DOESN'T IT REALIZE OUR BLUE BLOOD WILL CLASH WITH OUR GREEN UPHOLSTERY?!?
CAN NOTHING SAVE US NOW?
NO STEP

LOOK! COMING OUT OF THE HEAVENS!

AND COMING OUT OF THE HEAVENS IS **WALLY**... **WALLY** ATOP THE **MYSTERIOUS CREATURE** HE MET ON THE FOGGY ROAD... THE **DRAGON**, WHOSE SON HE RESCUED!

THIS *ONE* FAVOR AND THAT'S IT!

SLOW DOWN! THE LOCUST IS MOVING IN ON THE ROYAL COACH... I CAN SEE PENELOPE WAVING!

HEY, PEN! WHO IS YOUR *FAVORITE* DRAGON DRIVER?

WALLY!!

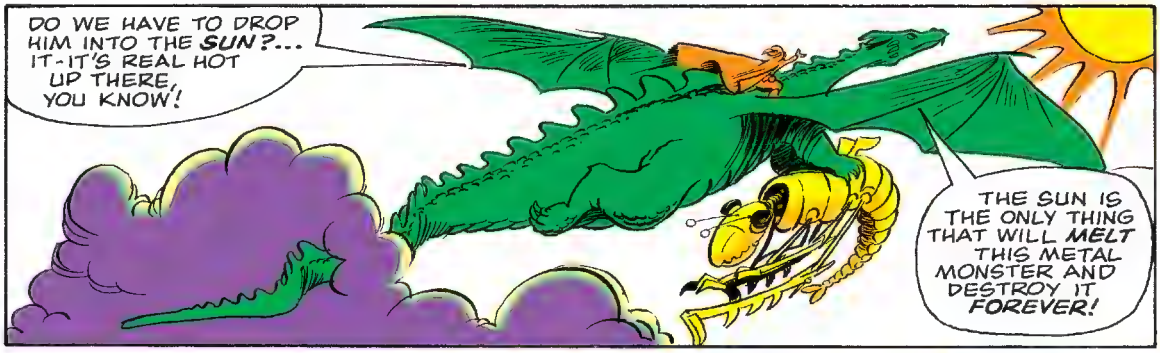
STOP SHOWING OFF...

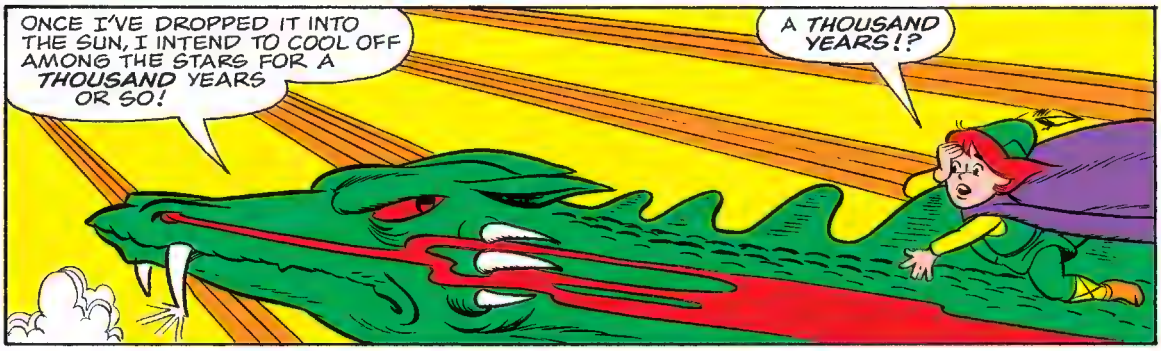
...AND DO SOMETHING!

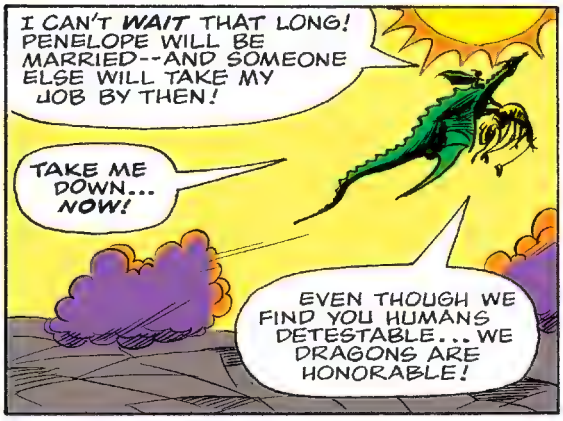
WALLY TO HEAD... WALLY TO HEAD... WE'VE *GOT* TO RESCUE THAT ROYALTY!

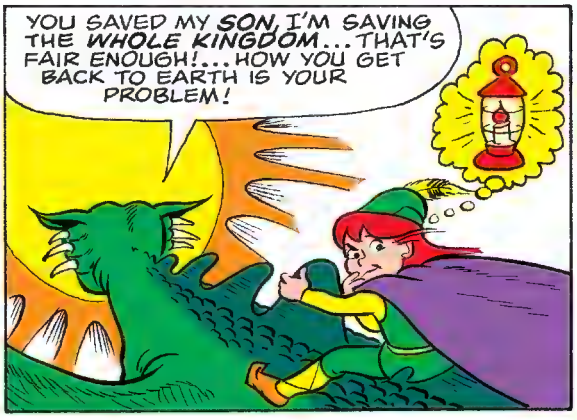
HANG ON WHILE I GAIN ALTITUDE!

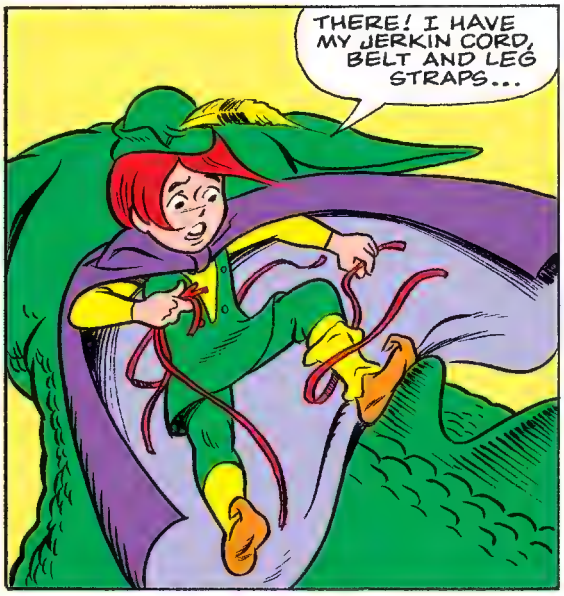
OOOOOWA! WHAT'S A NICE WIZARD LIKE ME DOIN' IN A DIVE LIKE THIS!?
TALLYHOOOOOOOOOO!
RRROAR!
ZOOM!
GOOD SHOW, WALLY!
TOP FORM!
ER...NOW THAT YOU HAVE HIM... WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A METAL LOCUST?
WE ARE GOING TO DROP HIM INTO THE SUN!
"WE"?!
XVII


DO WE HAVE TO DROP HIM INTO THE SUN?... IT-IT'S REAL HOT UP THERE, YOU KNOW!
THE SUN IS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL MELT THIS METAL MONSTER AND DESTROY IT FOREVER!

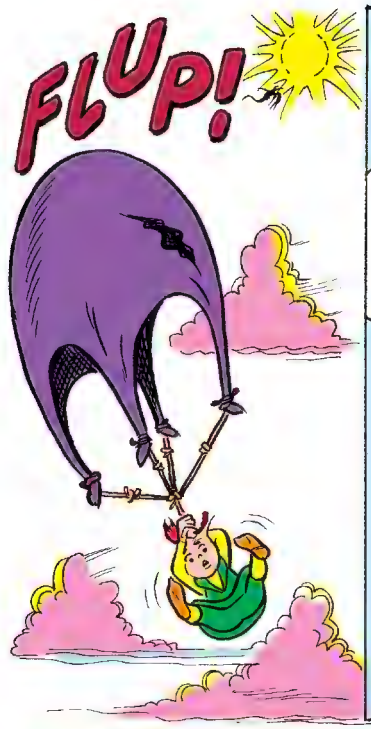

ONCE I'VE DROPPED IT INTO THE SUN, I INTEND TO COOL OFF AMONG THE STARS FOR A THOUSAND YEARS OR SO!
A THOUSAND YEARS!?

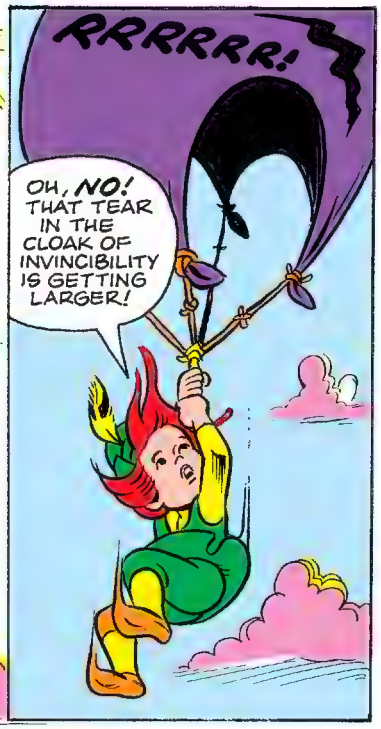

I CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG! PENELOPE WILL BE MARRIED--AND SOMEONE ELSE WILL TAKE MY JOB BY THEN!
TAKE ME DOWN... NOW!
EVEN THOUGH WE FIND YOU HUMANS DETESTABLE... WE DRAGONS ARE HONORABLE!

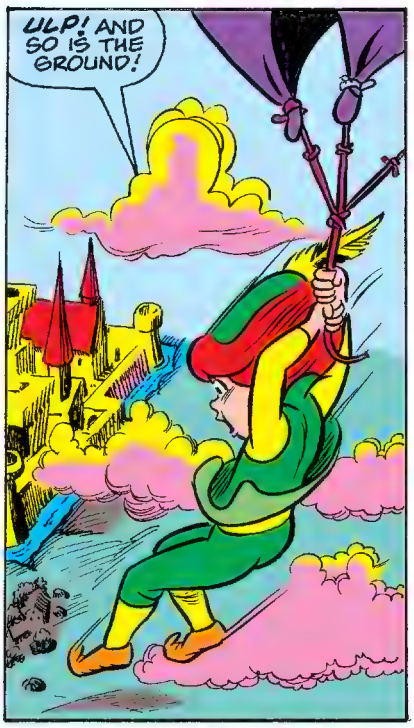

YOU SAVED MY SON, I'M SAVING THE WHOLE KINGDOM... THAT'S FAIR ENOUGH!... HOW YOU GET BACK TO EARTH IS YOUR PROBLEM!


THERE! I HAVE MY JERKIN CORD, BELT AND LEG STRAPS...

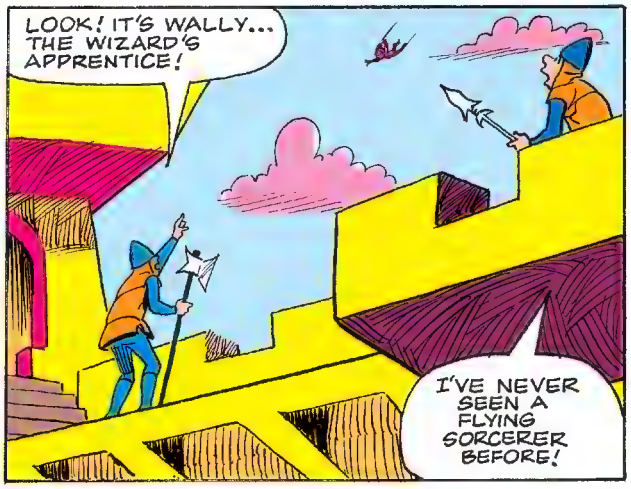
I HOPE THIS PLAN WORKS!


FLUP!


RRRRRR!
OH, NO! THAT TEAR IN THE CLOAK OF INVINCIBILITY IS GETTING LARGER!


ULP! AND SO IS THE GROUND!

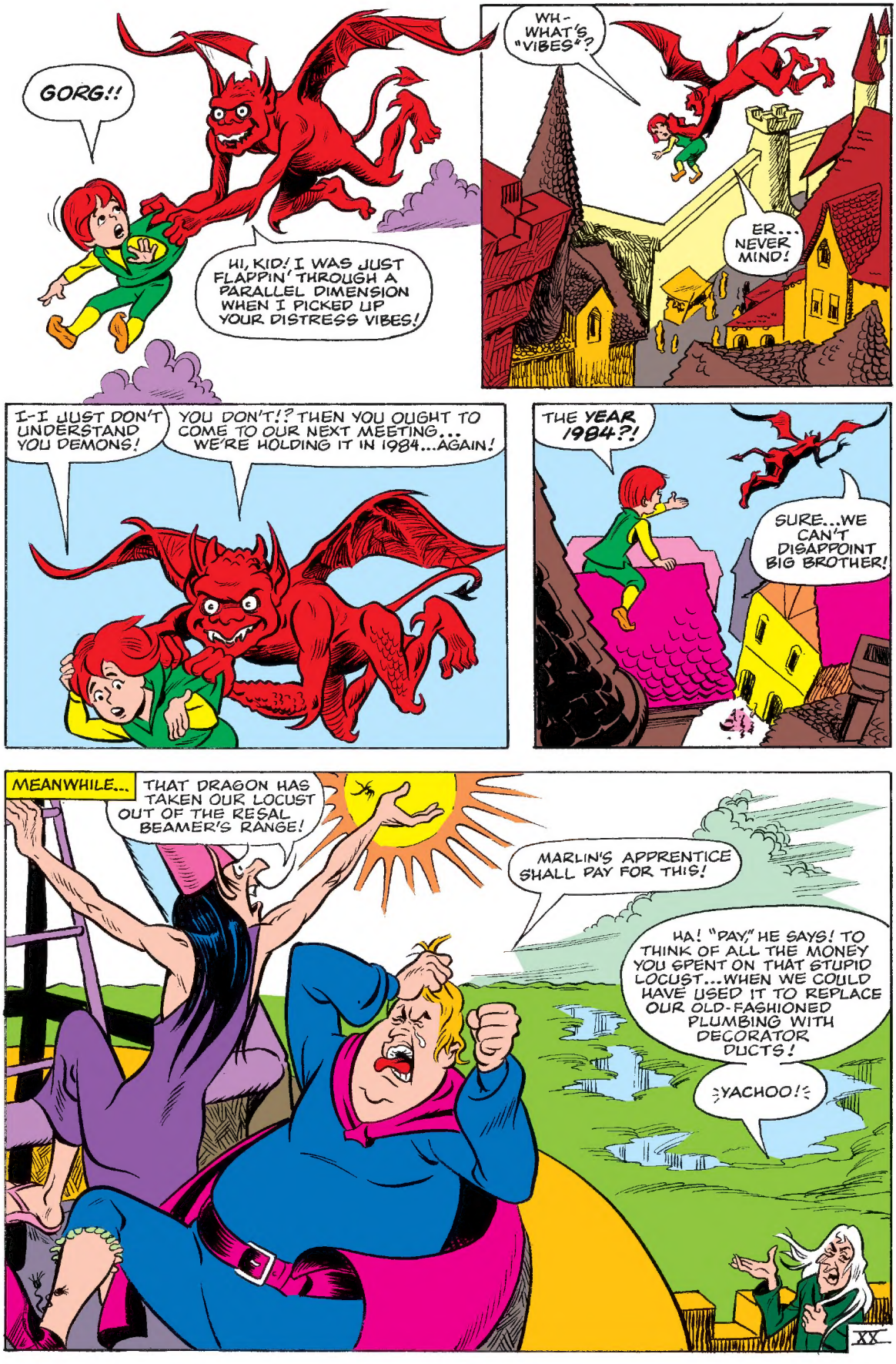
R-R-RIPP!
YIIIII!

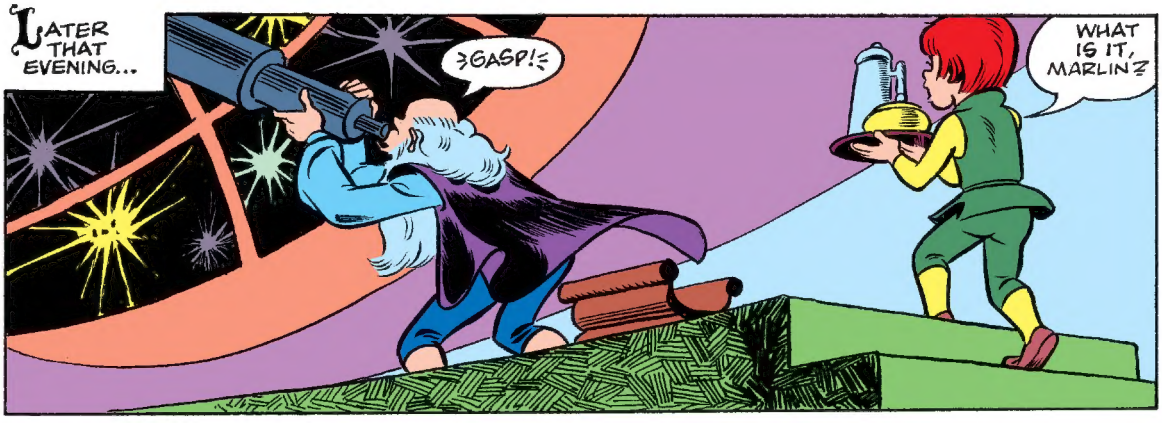

LOOK! IT'S WALLY... THE WIZARD'S APPRENTICE!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A FLYING SORCERER BEFORE!

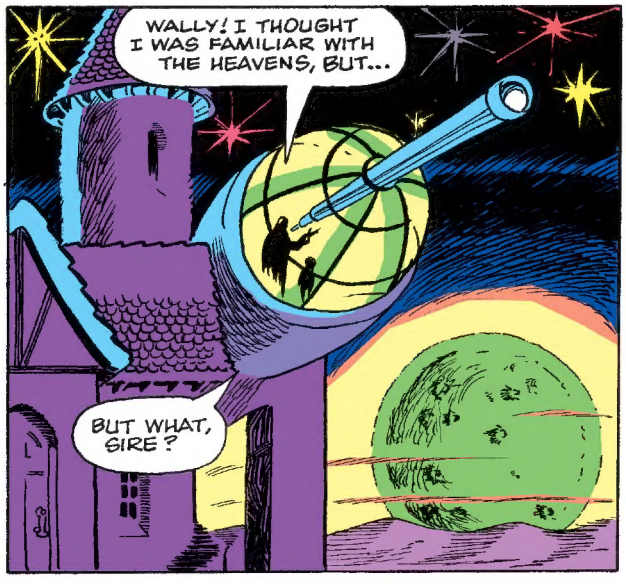
YIPES! YOU CAN NEVER FIND A HAYSTACK WHEN YOU NEED ONE!

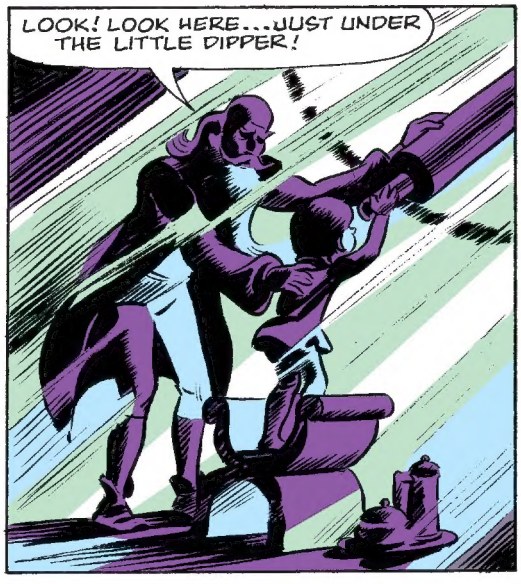
POP!

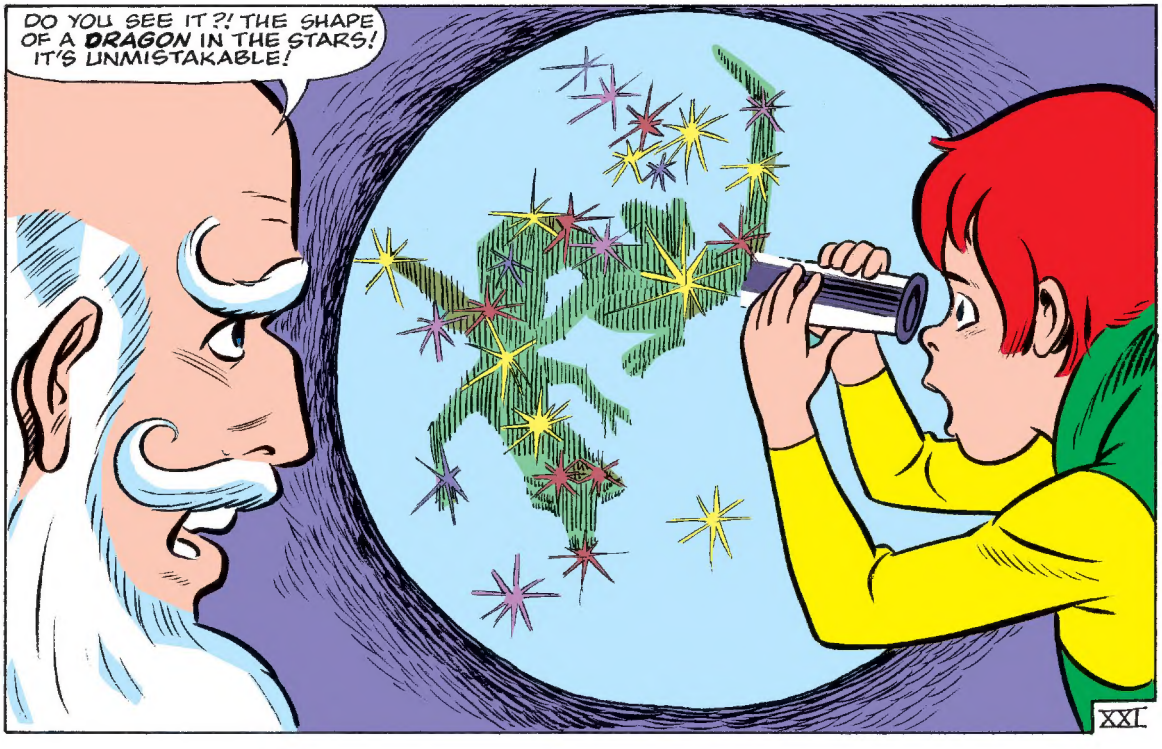
GOTCHA!
XIX

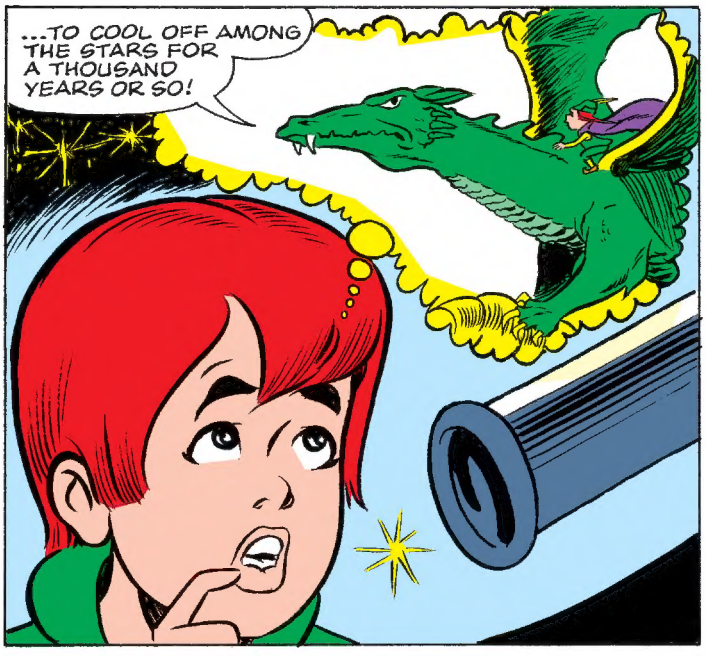

GORG!!
HI, KID! I WAS JUST FLAPPIN' THROUGH A PARALLEL DIMENSION WHEN I PICKED UP YOUR DISTRESS VIBES!
WH-WHAT'S "VIBES"?
ER... NEVER MIND!
I-I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU DEMONS!
YOU DON'T!? THEN YOU OUGHT TO COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING... WE'RE HOLDING IT IN 1984...AGAIN!
THE YEAR 1984?!
SURE...WE CAN'T DISAPPOINT BIG BROTHER!
MEANWHILE...
THAT DRAGON HAS TAKEN OUR LOCUST OUT OF THE RESAL BEAMER'S RANGE!
MARLIN'S APPRENTICE SHALL PAY FOR THIS!
HA! "PAY," HE SAYS! TO THINK OF ALL THE MONEY YOU SPENT ON THAT STUPID LOCUST...WHEN WE COULD HAVE USED IT TO REPLACE OUR OLD-FASHIONED PLUMBING WITH DECORATOR DUCTS!
YACHOO!
XX


LATER THAT EVENING...
GASP!
WHAT IS IT, MARLIN?

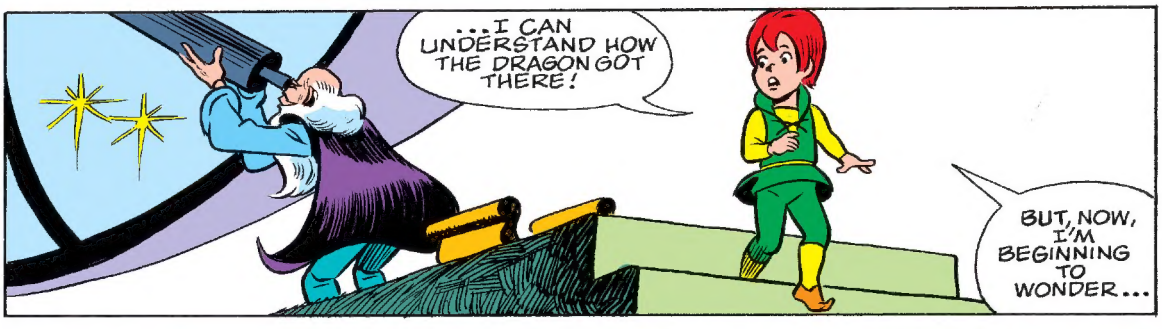

WALLY! I THOUGHT I WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE HEAVENS, BUT...
BUT WHAT, SIRE?

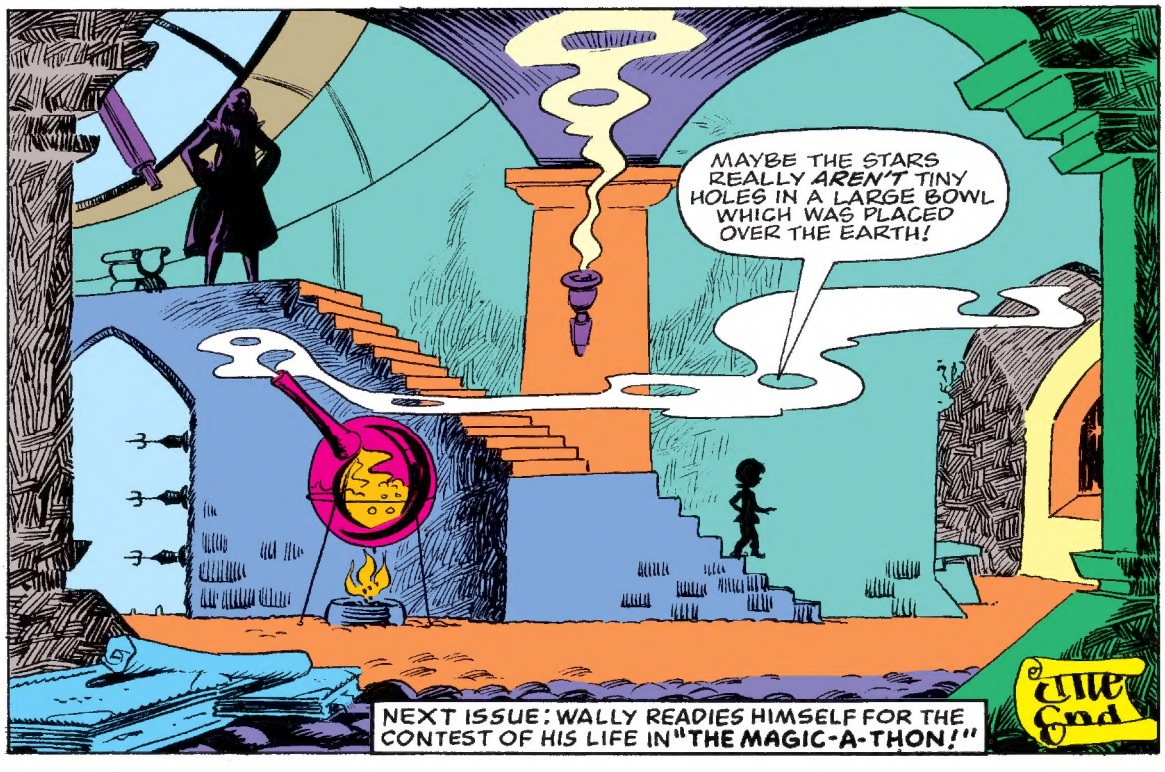

LOOK! LOOK HERE...JUST UNDER THE LITTLE DIPPER!


DO YOU SEE IT?! THE SHAPE OF A DRAGON IN THE STARS! IT'S UNMISTAKABLE!


...TO COOL OFF AMONG THE STARS FOR A THOUSAND YEARS OR SO!

YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED BY THAT, ARE YOU, WALLY?
NO, MARLIN, BECAUSE...


...I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW THE DRAGON GOT THERE!
BUT, NOW, I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER...


MAYBE THE STARS REALLY *AREN'T* TINY HOLES IN A LARGE BOWL WHICH WAS PLACED OVER THE EARTH!
NEXT ISSUE: WALLY READIES HIMSELF FOR THE CONTEST OF HIS LIFE IN "THE MAGIC-A-THON!"
The End

E
E
M
R
P
I
Shadowcat